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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 12 March 1953

SUBJECT Military Information from Prenzlau

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 1 December 1952, an officer and nine soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and, on 4 December, an officer and ten soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, all unarmed and carrying baggage arrived at the Prenzlau railroad station. They marched toward the barracks installation. the old officers would be transferred to the U.S.S.R. and that artillery Lieutenant Colonel Vasenko (fnu) would be one of these officers. numerous new officers. A radio truck with a rod antenna which was also connected with an antenna between two buildings had been in the barracks yard of the installation southeast of Berliner Strasse since early December. On 12 December, four soldiers were seen practicing on a gun which, was a 57-mm AT gun. Firing practices with carbines and heavy machine guns were performed daily at the gravel pit south of the barracks installation.

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Burov (fnu) as senior battalion commissar, Major Ivanov (fnu) as chief of staff and Novikov (fnu) as commissar of the brigade headquarters or battalion headquarters and in June 1942, the

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brigade went to Moscow, received ammunition and equipment and then was assigned to an unidentified tank corps; saw action with this corps; 1st Colonel Virikanov (fnu) and battalion commissar Burov (fnu) in the area of Voronesh; was sent to the area of Verkhni-Maman on the upper Don River in October 1942; was transferred to the area of Pavlograd in February 1943; was transferred to the Paisov area, Czechoslovakia, on 9 May 1945, after fighting in Germany; was transferred to Austria in July 1945; was sent to Cranienburg, Germany, in November 1946 and, in February 1949, went to Frenzlau where the brigade was reorganized into a tank regiment in April 1949. The brigade was employed at Voronesh, Stalingrad, Iozovaya, Orel, Kursk, Konotop, Kiyev, Novograd, Volynski (Tsviahel), Dubno, Brody, Yaroslavl, Irteymysl,..... and some other places including Luckenwalde. 2

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2. [] the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse quartered two tank units and one artillery unit. They allegedly were the units which had left for Templin in April 1952. They were subordinate to a headquarters in Cranienburg. Major Zeryonov's unit received about 200 recruits in early December 1952. [] the other units had also received recruits. [] no field training activity, however, personnel were engaged in overhauling their weapons. A total of 14 x 76.2-mm SIS-3 AT guns, an unidentified number of T-34 and IS guns and 120-mm mortars were in the barracks yard.

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3. The barracks installation northwest of Berliner Strasse [] quartered a tank unit. This unit had also received recruits. 1

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1. [] Comment. The information indicates no changes in the occupation of the two barracks installation in Frenzlau. [] The barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse quarters only a tank unit, namely the 175th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div and probably two artillery units, namely the unidentified Fort Regt of the division and the 296 Gds AT Arty Regt. For the assignment of this regiment [] Comment 2 of this report. The officers mentioned were previously reported as supply officers.

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2. [] Comment. [] the 296th Gds AT Arty Regt during World War II. [] carried with the 11th Gds AT Arty Brig. [] however, since 12 October 1944, the regiment was apparently assigned to the XXV Tank Corps and remained with this corps. It is therefore believed that, after World War II, the regiment remained a component of the division after the tank corps was redesignated into the 25th Tank Div. This assumption is to some extent supported by the quartering of the unit along with units of the division in Frenzlau. Paragraph 2 of the present report as well as previous observations tended to indicate that the regiment is equipped with SIS-3 76.2-mm guns. It is not clear, however, what missions are exercised by the regiment as component of a tank division since; according to previous observations, tank divisions have no AT artillery regiment. Previous information on the other hand tended to indicate that the un

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identified howitzer artillery regiment of the division was stationed in Oranienburg and thus is not identical with the 296th Gds AT Arty Regt. It is therefore impossible to make a definite statement on the T/E and the assignment of the regiment. A previous report indicated that the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse quartered four units. [redacted]

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The fourth unit allegedly also is an artillery unit which, however, is still unidentified. The separation of the 296th Gds AT Arty Regt from the 11th Gds AT Arty Brig on 12 October 1944 conflicts with records from World War II which indicate that, on 9 February 1945, the regiment was subordinate to the brigade. It is probable, however, that the information [redacted] is correct.

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